

AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS

In the Claims

Please **CANCEL** claims 1-33 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please **ADD** new claims 34-43 as follows.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-33 (Cancelled).

34. (New) A method of reducing mucosal damage in a patient having a condition characterized as inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) by administering an effective dose of HGF to the patient wherein the effective dose of HGF reduces lesions of the intestine and reduces the gene expression of cytokine inflammatory mediators.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the administration of HGF is performed systemically.

36. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the administration of HGF is performed lumenally.

37. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the effective dosage of HGF is about 30 µg/kg body weight/day to about 300 µg/kg body weight/day.

38. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the effective dosage of HGF is about 150 µg/kg body weight/day.

39. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the IBD is caused by one or more conditions selected from the group consisting of Chronic Ulcerative Colitis, Crohn's Disease, necrotizing enterocolitis, severe acute gastroenteritis, chronic gastroenteritis, cholera, chronic infections of the bowel, immunologic disorders affecting the intestine, immunodeficiency syndromes affecting the intestine, and HIV.

40. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the intestine includes the small intestine.

41. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the cytokine inflammatory mediators are at least one cytokine selected from the group consisting of tumor necrosis factor- α (TNF- α) and interferon- γ (IFN- γ).

42. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the lesions are gross lesions of the intestine.

43. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the lesions are microscopic lesions of the intestine.